

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 OPR-02 SY-05 /024 W

-----060359 252248Z /64

R 242000Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 569

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, AVCE, ASEC

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY & EVACUATION: BELIZE VOICE RADIO SYSTEM

DEPT FOR OPR/WLG, OC/PE, AND ARA/MGT; MEXICO FOR CEO/R;

GUATEMALA FOR RSO

REF: A) BELIZE 0443 B) MEXICO 11898 C) STATE 173938

1. SUMMARY: REF A INFORMED ADDRESSEES OF GENERAL VOICE RADIO SITUATION AND INCLUDED NON-SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR IMPROVED EQUIPMENT. OC'S REPLY, REFS B AND C, SUGGESTED WAYS OF EFFECTING MARGINAL IMPROVEMENTS IN VOICE RADIO CAPABILITY BY ADJUSTMENT OF PRE-SENT EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF SOME NEW EQUIPMENT. THIS TELEGRAM CONTAINS POST REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION FOR COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT WITH MORE POWERFUL AND MORE VERSATILE UNITS. POST HAS A BARELY ADEQUATE INTRA-CITY CAPABILITY; WHAT IS REQUIRED IS LONG RANGE VOICE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE INTRA-COUNTRY COMMUNICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. REF A DESCRIBED OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AND THAT ASPECT OF POST'S E & E PLAN DEALING WITH CONTINGENCY OF HOSTILE ACTION BY GUATEMALA AGAINST BELIZE, I. E. A THREAT FROM THE WEST WITH SAFEHAVEN EGRESS TO THE EAST AND NORTH. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF THE HURRICANE THREAT; THIS HAS BECOME MORE TIMELY, SINCE WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HURRICANE SEASON. AS DESCRIBED IN THE HURRICANE ANNEX TO THE POST'S E & E PLAN, THE SAFEHAVEN LOCATION IS SEVENTY-FIVE MILES FROM BELIZE CITY IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS OF BELIZE.

3. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT HURRICANES, EVEN THOSE WHICH DO NOT STRIKE BELIZE CITY DIRECTLY, CAUSE HAVOC WITH PUBLIC

UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS AND ARE USUALLY ACCOMPANIED OR FOLLOWED BY SEVERE FLOODING. IN SUCH EVENT, IT MIGHT BE WEEKS OR MONTHS BEFORE NORMAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS COULD BE RE-ESTABLISHED. THE NEED FOR RELIABLE VOICE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE OFFICE BUILDING, OUR VEHICLES, THOSE RESIDENCES STILL OCCUPIED, THE ARMY CAMP, AND EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS AT THE SAFEHAVEN WOULD BE ACUTE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. POST'S RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN BELIZE BEFORE AND AFTER EITHER CONTINGENCY DISCUSSED ABOVE REQUIRE THAT WE HAVE THE BEST EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO MEET THESE EMERGENCY NEEDS.

5. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRECISE INFORMATION RE STATE OF THE ART AND SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO OC, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE POST TO MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT EQUIPMENT TO BE PROVIDED. SOME SUGGESTIONS, HOWEVER, FOLLOW:

- A) CONSULATE GENERAL: ONE VHF-FM BASE STATION, 0P WATT (OR HIGHER);
 - B) BRITISH ARMY CAMP: SAME AS CONSULATE;
 - C) VEHICLES: THREE VHF-FM MOBILE, 90 WATT TRUNK MOUNT UNITS, ONE IN WATERPROOF HOUSING;
 - D) SAFEHAVEN: ONE VHF-FM RESIDENCE BASE STATION, 90 WATT (OR HIGHER) CAPABLE OF OPERATING ON 112 VOLTS AC, 60 HTZ, OR 12 VOLTS DC;
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- E) RESIDENCES: FIVE RESIDENCE PORTABLES OF HIGHEST WATTAGE AVAILABLE. CHARGE ON 110 VOLTS AC, 60 HTZ AND, IF POSSIBLE, 12 VOLTS DC;
- F) RESIDENCE ANTENNAS: FIVE ROOF-TOP ANTENNAS. CABLE RUNS: 1) 25', 2) 25', 3) 50', 4) 100', 5) 125';
- G) CONSULATE ANTENNA: AS SUGGESTED REF B, RAISE BASE STATION ANTENNA TO ABOVE LEVEL OF SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.
- H) FIVE GUTTER MOUNT VEHICLE ANTENNAS;
- I) ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED RADIOS TO OPERATE ON TWO STANDARD E & E FREQUENCIES. VEHICULAR AND RESIDENTIAL UNITS REQUIRE HIGH WATTAGE, RELATIVE PORTABILITY, AND, IF POSSIBLE, DUAL CURRENT CHARGING AS FIVE AMERICANS AT POST AND LOCAL DRIVER AND GSO ASST. MAY ALL BE DISPERSED IN DIFFERENT AREAS DURING AN EMERGENCY.

6. POST IS AWARE OF PRESENT DEMANDS BEING PLACED UPON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CEO'S; NONETHELESS, REQUEST THAT CEO/R ASSIGNED TO THIS PROJECT BE ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME IN BELIZE CITY TO INSTALL, TEST, AND IF NECESSARY ADJUST ALL INSTALLATIONS.

GAWF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELIZE00569
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770308-0156
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770831/aaaaazfo.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5cb3de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OC
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELIZE 443, 77 MEXICO 11898, 77 STATE 173938
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1508924
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY & EVACUATION: BELIZE VOICE RADIO SYSTEM DEPT FOR OPR/WLG, OC/PE, AND ARA/MGT; MEXICO FOR CEO/R; GUATEMALA FOR RSO
TAGS: AEMR, AVCE, ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5cb3de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009